

A WANT AD.  
In The Herald will go as far, cost less and accomplish more, than the same ad. in any other Utah paper.

# THE SALT LAKE HERALD.

TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR

SALT LAKE CITY, SATURDAY MAY 23, 1896.

NUMBER 213

## SANCTUARY OF GOD DEFILED WITH BLOOD

One of the Crimes of the Century Has Evidently Been Committed in Peaceful Salt Lake City.

### THE VICTIM WAS A WOMAN

Tragedy Enacted at the Scandinavian Methodist Church.

BODY WAS CREMATED

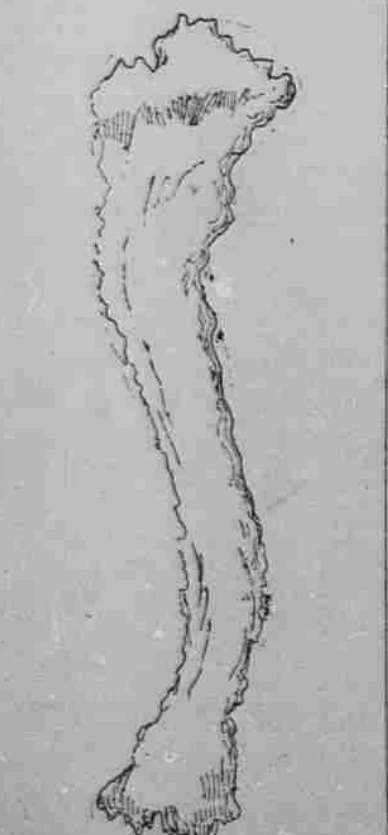
Efforts of the Murderer to Destroy the Evidences.

They Were All in Vain, However—Bones Fell Through the Grate of the Furnace, Together with Buckles from the Woman's Apparel, and Two Razors and a Butcher Knife, the Instruments with Which It Is Supposed the Horrid Deed Was Committed—The Authorities Are Working Vigorously Upon the Case and Expect to Bring All the Facts to Light and the Human Fiend to Justice.

In all human probability, Salt Lake City has been the scene of a butchery that stands almost without a parallel in the annals of crime, and one seek-



ing for a companion piece to the gruesome horror will seek in vain.  
The Durrant Case.  
It bears some resemblance to the murders committed by Durrant, be-



THE CLASP WHICH FELL THROUGH THE GRATE.

cause in this case, too, the sanctuary of God was the scene of the crime and the victim was a woman, but the Salt

Lake fiend outdid Durrant, because after mutilating the body, he deliberately proceeded to cremate it.

The Webster Murder.  
That recalls the famous case of Dr. Webster, the university professor, who



REV. FRANCIS HERMANN.

also sought to destroy the evidence of his guilt by casting the remains into a furnace, but in his case, the victim was a man, one who had greatly exasperated him by persistent dunning, and in this case, the victim was a defenseless woman, who had never given offense.

Statement of the Affair.

This brings us to a statement of the case, and it will be confined to the established facts without embellishment.

The scene of the tragedy was the First Scandinavian Methodist church, at No. 158 Second East. This house of worship is across the street from the Presbyterian church and diagonally through the block from the police station. Rev. Francis Hermann is the pastor, although an assistant from Provo is in charge during his absence in the east. Rev. Hermann is, of course, very well known in this city, especially among the Scandinavians, by whom he is considered a man of God. Last year the minister's wife died, and shortly before he went east, in September, 1895, to attend a church conference, Miss Clawson, an attractive young woman, perhaps 25 years of age, stopped at the church building, which is large and in the wings accommodated several families, and looked after the pastor's apartments.

Miss Clawson Disappears.

Mr. Herman returned from the conference late in September, the day being Thursday, and Miss Clawson remained as usual until the following Sunday morning, when she remarked to Mrs. H. H. Peterson, who resides in apartments on the north side of the church, that she was going to call on Mrs. Hanson, a friend residing on Center street. She added that she would be back in the evening to attend services and would probably leave the following day, Monday, to visit a girl friend in the country for three days, when she would return.

That was the last ever seen of her.

Had Many Friends.

While the young woman had no parents, in this country at least, for she was a Scandinavian, she had many friends, and her absence was soon noted. Then inquiries were made, but no one could give any information as to the girl's whereabouts until at last, it is said, Mr. Hermann stated that a letter had been received from Helena stating that she was in a house of ill fame there.

Something occurred about the time the girl disappeared that is now vividly recalled by the people living in the church building.

A Mysterious Affair.

In all probability it was on Sunday, September 23, that Miss Clawson went

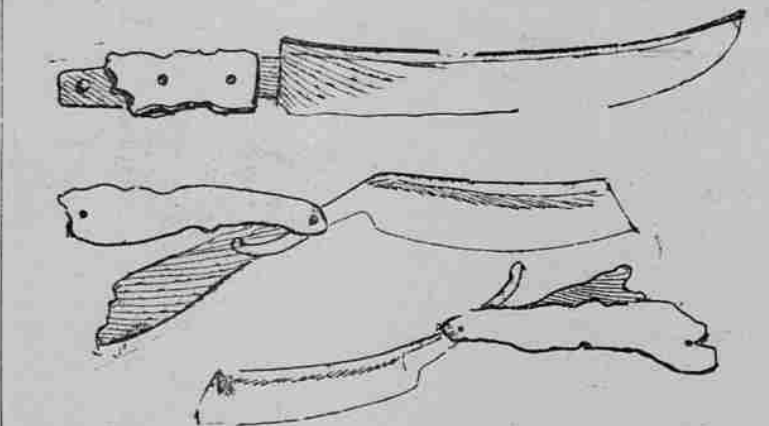
out to make her call. On the day following, which would be Monday, September 23, Mr. Hermann told the janitor of the place, a man named Johnson, to clean out the big heating furnace in the basement and prepare it for a fire. The furnace was at one time used for warming the church, but a long time before caused a disastrous blaze that came near destroying the building. After that, it had never been used, stoves being set up instead. Besides that, the weather was very warm, but Mr. Hermann said he wanted to try the pipes. In accordance with his instructions, Janitor Johnson cleaned out the furnace, and carried six buckets of coal into the basement. He was preparing to start the fire, but the pastor said that he wished to attend to all that himself, and told the janitor to retire. This was shortly after the noon hour, and soon the furnace was going in full blast.

Overcome By the Heat and Stench.

A young man who works nights was sleeping in the rooms occupied by his family, and the heat shortly became so intense, and such odors were given out that he became unconscious and had to be splashed with water before he revived. His parents went down to the basement to remonstrate, but Mr. Hermann kept his fire going merrily until nearly or quite 6 o'clock in the evening, when he extinguished it. During all this time he remained alone in the basement.

The Discovery.

After a time, the fire incident was forgotten and recently Mr. Hermann found it necessary to go east to attend a conference and to solicit funds for his church. During his absence, he called upon a gentleman at Provo to



RAZORS AND KNIFE WITH WHICH IT IS SUPPOSED THE MURDER WAS COMMITTED.

take charge of the church, and he is still there. Now it happens that this acting pastor was a friend of Miss Clawson, or at least he took an active interest in her welfare, and from all that can be gathered, was never quite satisfied with the mysterious manner in which she disappeared. What led him to do it, no one knows, but a few days ago he went down into the mouldy basement, which has for so long served only as a rendezvous for cats. Once

there, he looked into the furnace, and to his surprise, found in the ash receiver under the grate two razors, a butcher knife, a garter buckle, a belt buckle and a number of human bones,

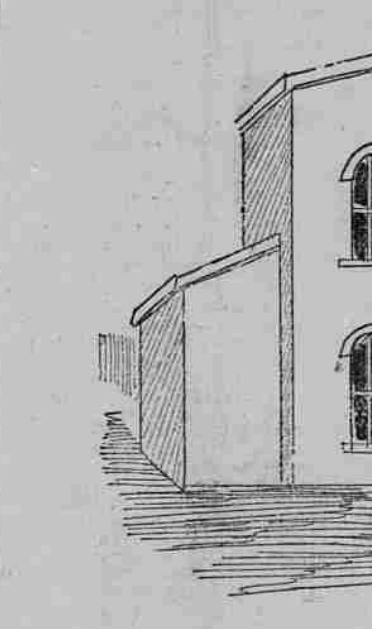
all, of course, considerably charred. Further investigation was made, and it was found that the door to the furnace was smeared with blood, with reason to believe that the buckles were from apparel worn by Miss Clawson.

Officers Called In.

The officers were called in and empty sacks in which charcoal had been brought into the basement, were found. The bones were turned over to a number of physicians and all unhesitatingly identified them as those of a human being and almost certainly a female.

Seen Carrying the Sack.

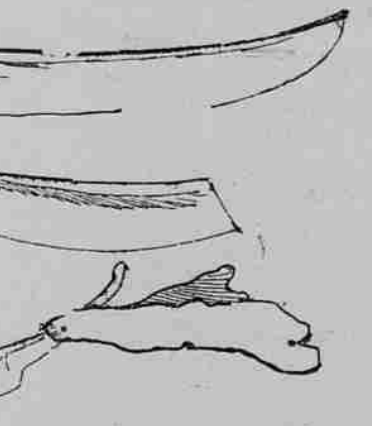
Mrs. H. H. Peterson, an estimable lady, whose husband is employed in the waterworks department, resides on the north side of the church. She, of course, knows Rev. Hermann intimately and was well acquainted with Miss Claw-



SCANDINAVIAN M. E. CHURCH.

son. She knew nothing about the discoveries made in the basement under her apartments, but talked readily to a Herald representative last evening.

"Mr. Hermann came back from the east on a Thursday of last September," she said, "and on the Sunday following Miss Clawson told me she



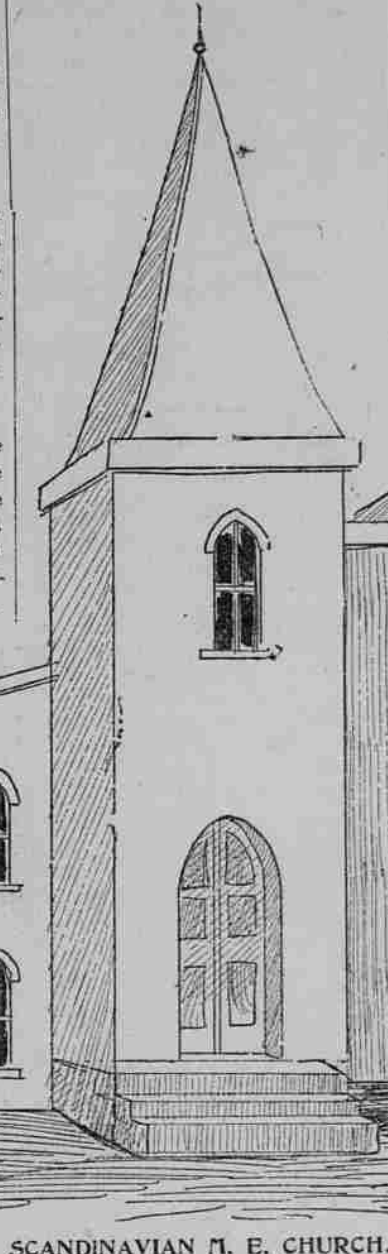
RAZORS AND KNIFE WITH WHICH IT IS SUPPOSED THE MURDER WAS COMMITTED.

was going to visit a friend on Center street, but would return in the evening. She also said that the next day, Sunday, she expected to go out in the country for a few days to visit friends, but would come back. I presume she returned Sunday evening, but do not know, as I am not a member of the congregation."

"Do you remember the occasion when Mr. Hermann built a fire in the fur-

member that the fire created an intense heat in the apartments, and remarked upon it to my husband, but he did not consider it anything extraordinary."

"Did you ever notice anything peculiar?"

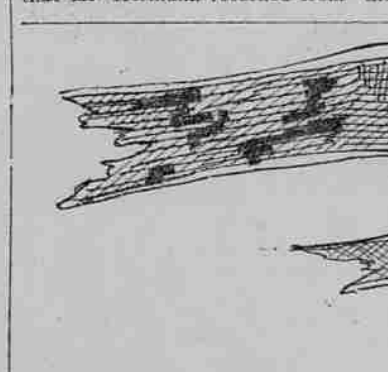


SCANDINAVIAN M. E. CHURCH.

lar about the relations between Miss Clawson and Mr. Hermann?"

"Not at all. I remember that on one occasion Mr. Hermann remarked to me that Miss Clawson had made a proposal to him. I didn't think it was very nice of him to say that. Miss Clawson was a good girl, and she cared a great deal for Mr. Hermann."

From other persons it was learned that Mr. Hermann returned from the



RAZORS AND KNIFE WITH WHICH IT IS SUPPOSED THE MURDER WAS COMMITTED.

east recently, but left again two weeks ago.

The acting pastor stated that his last address was Kansas City, where he was on May 9 on his way to Decatur, Iowa.

Couldn't Be Found.

With a view to locating the gentleman, and perhaps getting some information on the subject, The Herald at once telegraphed to Kansas City, and

late last night received this reply:

"Kansas City, May 22, 1896.

"If Francis Hermann is in the city he is under cover. He is not registered

### INDEX OF TODAY'S IMPORTANT NEWS

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  - 7 Pen Pictures of Moscow. Students Are Leaving Provo.
  - 8 In Railway Circles. State Supreme Court.

at any first-class or second-class hotels on present date or on May 7.

"C. C. CLINE."

The Day of the Fire.

A number of people are able to contribute information regarding the fire

THE HERALD NOW  
Gives more and better news for less money than any paper in Utah. It will increase in excellence but the price will remain the same.

### HILL GREW QUITE WARM

His Strenuous Opposition to the Butler Anti-Bond Bill.

STARTLING PROPOSITION.

"Plain, Bold and Open Repudiation," He Says.

Sherman of the Opinion That if the Present Congress Adjourns Without Giving the Treasury Relief, it Will Be an Outrage and a Shame—George Comes Forward With a Proposition—Hawley Says the Passage of the Hill Means Anarchy.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—There was a notable increase in attendance today, in anticipation of a renewal of the exciting debate yesterday.

Mr. Butler, of North Carolina, renewed his motion to take up the bill prohibiting the issuing of interest-bearing bonds. After some sparring, Mr. Hill, of New York, interposed the objection that this was too important a question to be considered "without a quorum."

This was the first evidence of the renewal of obstruction. A quorum being found quickly, the motion was adopted—yeas, 34; nays, 20.

With the understanding that the Butler bill should not be prejudiced, a bill was passed to quiet the title to the lands to persons who had purchased in good faith without notice and for a valuable consideration, enable the government to issue patents on such lands and providing that communications of homestead entries shall take effect from the date of settlement and not from the date of entry.

Mr. Mills, of Texas, gave notice that he would object to any business until the pending bond bill had been disposed of.

Mr. Pettigrew presented a partial conference report on the Indian bill, which, being privileged, was admitted and agreed to, the chair ruling that it could not be debated so as to displace the bond bill.

HILL GROWS WARM.

Mr. Hill began his speech in opposition to the Butler bill. He spoke calmly at first, gradually warming up in emphasis and feeling. "The alleged crime of 1873 will be as nothing," said Hill, "to the crime which will be perpetrated if this bill becomes a law. It is a bold proposition to repeal the assumption act, to reveal the only law which exists for the redemption of the paper currency of the country, by declaring that for no purpose whatever shall money be raised on bonds. This measure is in effect a repeal of the act of 1875. It is a startling proposition. It will simply put in a hole the finances of the country."

"This is a plain, bold open repudiation," exclaimed Mr. Hill, his words ringing through the chamber. "Repudiation; the dishonor of your party and the dishonor of your country as what this measure means. The crime of 1873 pales into insignificance beside this contemplated crime. This measure takes the government by the throat; it holds up the treasury."

Mr. George (Dem.) of Mississippi, asked why it was not best to put aside all partisanship, both sides coming together in a proper relief measure to aid the treasury.

Mr. Sherman was quickly on his feet. "I say in all seriousness," he said, "that if this congress adjourns without giving the treasury relief it will be an outrage and a shame."

AN OUTRAGE AND A SHAME.

It will be a disgrace falling in large part on the senate. We are going in like a spendthrift squandering his fortune. The senate refuses to give the president proper powers for raising us measure (the bond prohibition) is the act of a bankrupt and of a dishonest bankrupt. Thank God! it cannot pass, for we all know this is merely a moot debate."

Mr. Sherman said he would appeal to the leaders of the Democratic party to shake off the passions of the moment and take up the tariff bill sent here by the house, which Democrats senators had joined the Populists in adding a silver amendment to, thus killing it.

"If we do not act," concluded Mr. Sherman, "the president of the United States will be justified in calling us back here by the first of July to do our duty."

Mr. Gray (Dem., Del.) followed. "I agree with the Ohio senator that

A CRISIS IS IN THE HISTORY

of the country. I agree that an adjournment without a measure of relief would be an outrage and a shame. And I say to the senate if his committee will propose a measure to increase the revenue, a measure truly non-partisan and solely to raise revenue—that he will find support on this side of the chamber."

"The senator's proposition," answered Mr. Sherman, "is that we should disregard the bill of the house—that body charged with legislating revenue legislation; that we should tear up the Dingley bill and make another. He must be broad and liberal in his offers."

"I thought the senator (Sherman) did not understand himself," said Mr. Gray. "When he spoke of a non-partisan patriotic measure. He now proposes that we must accept the Dingley bill, which, in my judgment, will not yield sufficient revenue to afford relief."

Mr. George now came forward with a detailed proposition. He said he would pledge his one vote to the Republican senators if they would get together and frame

A PROPER RELIEF MEASURE. He would accept in such a measure a tax on beer, revenue tax on wool, lumber, tea, coffee, an increase on tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, and a fair revenue duty on any agricultural products imported from Canada to the United States.

Mr. Dubois (Rep., Idaho), one of the five Republicans voting against considering the tariff bill, rose at this

(Continued on page 2)